



The New Midlander



December 2018 Number 288

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NO MORE PRINTED VERSIONS OF THE NEW MIDLANDER

The committee has decided that no printed versions of the New Midlander will be circulated to societies. Many people now receive an email copy of the newsletter and societies are asked to print a copy for consultation at meetings for those without access to a computer. It was decided that the cost of printing and distributing the newsletter was no longer sustainable. The MPF Autumn meeting at Rugby unanimously agreed with the committee resolution.

MIDPEX 2019 is getting closer

Midpex will take place in July 2019. The venue will be the Warwickshire Event Centre near Leamington Spa where previous shows have been held. Planning is in the early stages but the committee has already met and invites to dealers and specialist societies sent out. If a specialist society that you are a member of has never attended, why not ask them to attend this unique stamp fair.

Two meeting rooms will once again be available for any society which wishes to hold a meeting.

Date July 6th 2019. Provisional opening and closing times 10 am -4.30 pm.

As usual a free shuttle bus from Leamington Station will run but for those coming by car, parking is still plentiful and free.

Refreshments are available all day.

RESULTS OF THE 16-SHEET COMPETITION
HELD AT RUGBY NOVEMBER 2018

Name	Title	Society	Award	Mark	
<u>OPEN CLASS</u>					
John Barker	Money Order Cards / German States / 1865 - 1872	Solihull	Silver Gilt	80	Class Winner
Alan Godfrey	Hi-Di-Hi Mail from Butlins	Redditch	Silver Bronze	68	
<u>AEROPHILTELY CLASS</u>					
Brian Hyner	Flight of Dornier DOX1a 1929 - 1932	Sutton Coldfield	Silver Gilt	81	
Colin Searle	Gibraltar; Early Airmails 1929 - 1933	Stratford	Silver Gilt	82	Class Winner
<u>POSTAL HISTORY CLASS</u>					
Mike Parker	WW1 Surcharged Mail	Stroud	Silver Gilt	80	
Brian Atkins	Postal History of Much Wenlock 1811 - 1905	Shropshire	Gold	86	
Clive Jones	The Clipper Period 1854 - 1857	Solihull	Gold	87	Class Winner
Peter Pugh	British Mail via Trans- Siberian Railway 1914 - 1917	Rugby	Gold	85	
Clifford Masters	Boer War Prisoner Mail – St Helena	Northampton shire	Silver Gilt	80	
Brian Hyner	Cachets on Pre-Stamp Gibraltar Mail	Sutton Coldfield	Silver Gilt	80	
John Walker	Adversity Envelopes / Confederacy / 1861 - 1865	Sutton Coldfield	Silver Gilt	81	
<u>POSTCARD CLASS</u>					
David Grant	Hastings	Worcester	Silver Bronze	62	
Clifford Masters	Boer War Postcards	Northampton shire	Silver	70	
John Walker	Thai-Burma Death Railway WW2	Sutton Coldfield	Silver Gilt	82	
Brian Hyner	Captain William Leefe Robinson VC – Giant Killer	Sutton Coldfield	Silver Gilt	83	Class Winner

Congratulations to all the winners. Clive Jones was awarded the prize for Best in Show.

Sad News

We have been informed that Colin Riddell who was Treasurer to Midland Philatelic Federation for a number of years passed away recently. He will be missed. Colin was responsible for revamping the federation's finances and was a valued member of the committee.

RESULTS OF THE INTER-SOCIETY 9-SHEET COMPETITION
HELD AT WORCESTER MAY 2018

Apologies for not putting these results in an earlier New Midlander – the summer break intervened and I forgot. Better late than never though!

Name	Title	Society	Award	Mark	
<u>OPEN CLASS</u>					
Geoff Bath	The Significance of Brazil ABNC Issues 1906 – 1917	Sutton Coldfield	Gold	85	Class Winner
<u>AEROPHILTELY CLASS</u>					
Geoff Bath	The Brazil Airport Tax Stamp 1933 - 1934	Sutton Coldfield	Silver	73	
Robin Jarman	From Chile by Aeropostale	Redditch	Silver Gilt	80	Class Winner
<u>POSTAL HISTORY CLASS</u>					
Chris Jackson	Worcestershire Postal History of 2d Charge	Redditch	Gold	87	Class Winner
Mike Whittaker	Tales from Chin Hills	Rugby	Silver Bronze	66	
John Walker	The Special Mail Rates of the Southern Confederacy	Sutton Coldfield	Gold	86	
<u>THEMATIC CLASS</u>					
Robin Jarman	Cactaceae	Redditch	Silver	79	Class Winner
Richard Pearson	Woodpeckers	Sutton Coldfield	Silver	68	
Paul Arkinsall	Boys Brigade	Sutton Coldfield	Bronze	53	
<u>POSTCARD CLASS</u>					
John Walker	Japanese Military Postal History	Sutton Coldfield	Silver Gilt	80	Class Winner
<u>TRADITIONAL STAMPS CLASS</u>					
John Barker	Money Order Cards of the German States 1865 - 1872	Solihull	Gold	86	
Malcolm Hughes	Zululand	Sutton Coldfield	Gold	88	Class Winner
Michael Chapling	USA Bureau Pre-cancels	Sutton Coldfield	Silver	73	

Congratulations to all the winners. Malcolm Hughes was awarded the prize for the Best in Show.

Chairman's Update



I'm writing this column the day after we held the MPF Autumn Convention at the Benn Hall in Rugby in association with the Rugby Stamp and Postcard Fair. It was very pleasing to see a good number of MPF societies' members there!

We were able to display the 16-sheet individual competition entries in the main meeting room so that it was easy for all the visitors to the event to view the material. In the afternoon

we presented the class winners with their trophies and other entrants with their certificates. It was good to see that nine different MPF societies were represented with competition entries. Thanks to all those that entered and particular congratulations to the class winners. I found it interesting that there were no entries in the traditional stamps class or the thematics class.

I would encourage all MPF societies to be thinking about entering the Inter-Society competitions (9 sheet) which will be held at the MPF Spring Convention - this will again be held at the Benn Hall in Rugby on Sunday, 19th May 2019. That may sound a long way off, but it takes time to put a competition entry together! The Autumn Convention in 2019 will be held in Banbury on November 10th – more details to follow.

At midday, we held the MPF meeting itself. One or two points that came up at the meeting will be of interest:

- it was suggested that we stop printing and distributing hard copies of the New Midlander. The meeting felt that with technology as advanced as it is nowadays and the widespread use of email, hard copies were no longer needed. The meeting agreed that we should stop the production and distribution of hard copies. This will also be a significant cost-saving for the MPF
- A member suggested that if the MPF wants to encourage societies and members to enter competitions, it would be helpful if a speaker was available to visit societies to help outline how to go about putting together a competition entry with tips that may help! We will try to identify a suitable speaker as soon as possible and let everyone know.

Are there other things that the MPF should be doing for the hobby, for the local member or the local society? I really do want to hear from you - either from societies or from individuals. Email me at sharrison500@btinternet.com. My postal address is 56 Woodberry Drive, Sutton Coldfield, B76 2RH - I really do want to hear from you!

Steve Harrison

The **Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fairs** are held quarterly on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October each year and are held in the Belmont Community Hall, adjacent to the Tan Bank Car Park in Wellington Centre, Telford, TF1 1LU.

The fairs are organised by Telford Philatelic Society. Entry is free and the fairs are open from 10 am to 3 pm. Free parking is available adjacent to the hall. Both train and bus stations are nearby for those who cannot travel by car.

If there are any dealers out there who wish to have a table at this well-attended fair then contact Bob Pilkington, Tele: 01299-211737. Email: sbpilkington02@outlook.com.

Next Fairs

2019 – January 12th, April 13th, July 13th, October 12th.

Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society Stamp & Postcard Fair

The Society will be holding its Annual Stamp Fair & Exhibition at The Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF on Saturday 2nd March 2019. Collingwood Drive is off the A4041 Queslett Road.

Fair opens at 10.00am and continues until 4.00pm.

Car parking at the Centre is free and the Venue is Disabled Friendly.

Dealers will attend with material including Stamps, Postal History, Covers and Postcards. There will also be a display of material from members of the Society to illustrate the wide variety of interests and will include Stamps, Postal History, and Aero Philatelic items. The display will be colour copies of the originals.

Free Admission and Car Parking and Refreshments of tea, coffee, cold drinks, sandwiches, and light lunches will be available all day.

Further information about this Fair can be obtained from the Event organiser: -

Mr Steven Harrison Phone 0121 313 0671 Mobile 07979597498

E-mail sharrison500@btinternet.com

SOCIETY REPORTS

Solihull Philatelic Society

On 6th November, we were treated to a remarkable display given by Adrian Ritorides on “Interruption of Mail Services to and from Greece in the 20th Century”. Adrian introduced his display with a short power-point presentation incorporating some novel graphics. Turbulent times befell Greece through the Balkan wars, WW1 and the aftermath of the Asia Minor Campaign and WW2. During these times, mail took many different routes to and from Greece, often changing as events unfolded with mail being

held over until hostilities ceased, or forwarded by some other route or being returned to the sender. Examples of mail to and from all corners of the world were incorporated in Adrian's display. An amazing array of cachets and other postal markings had been well researched by Adrian and written up to make an excellent display.

John Barker

Banbury Stamp Society

On Tuesday 6th November, Alan Godfrey displayed his material on the topic 'To the Ends of the Earth – Polar Exploration'. Alan reminded us of some of the more familiar names in Polar Exploration – Scott, Amundsen, Peary and Shackleton – and introduced us to a number of other equally intrepid explorers.

Once North America had been discovered, a route around the north of Canada was hoped for. Explorers such as Frobisher, Davis and Hudson all gave their names to bays and straits in the Canadian Arctic; Cook mapped the Bering Straits between the Pacific and Arctic oceans and among his crew was a certain Mr. Bligh. Russia too was interested in the North-East passage as a direct sea route to its territory in Alaska.

After the Napoleonic war, Britain made a concerted effort to explore the arctic. One of these was the Franklin expedition in the Erebus and the Terror, both of which sank after becoming trapped in the ice and the crew subsequently perished. A number of rescue expeditions were made with further loss of life, and the two shipwrecks were not discovered until recently. Alan had Canadian stamps and covers relating to this. In 1903, Amundsen took three years to successfully travel the North West passage from east to west.

Alan then moved on to the race to become the first to the North Pole. In 1893, Nansen used the polar drift to carry his vessel north and then set off on foot, reaching a latitude of 86°. Peary claimed to have reached the pole in 1909 but his claim is in doubt. There were early attempts to fly to the pole in balloons, airships and planes and in 1926 a Norwegian-Italian crew flew from Spitzbergen to Alaska over the North Pole.

The second half looked at Antarctica. In 1773 Cook went as far south as latitude 71 degrees, but the race to the South Pole and scientific exploration of the continent started in the 20th Century. In 1901 Scott made his first expedition, with Shackleton among the crew. In 1911 Amundsen reached the South Pole followed shortly after by Scott; Shackleton made other visits to the Antarctic including the 1914 Endurance expedition made famous by the epic journey to safety after the ship sank. Belgium was among a number of countries who sent scientific teams and set up bases. The American Byrd made numerous visits to the region including the first flight to the South Pole in 1929. Alan illustrated his talk with commemorative stamps, covers and letter as well as contemporary maps and pictures.

Terry Hare-Walker visited Banbury Stamp Society on Tuesday 16th October and gave the members a taste of Indian philately by showing us eight possible collecting areas. Early maritime mail went via the Cape of Good Hope, which meant that mail from India could take several months to transit due to the unfavourable winds. Mail marks were introduced in 1775 and Terry's first cover was dated 1793, from Madras to

London. Initially the East India Company carried the mail but in 1814 an act was passed so that the Royal Mail were paid 1s 2d to apply a handstamp to allow the mail to be put onto the ship - but the sender had to take the mail to the ship! The act was amended so that mail went into the system at the post office.

To speed mail up, sea and land routes were developed: by sea from India to Egypt, overland to the Mediterranean then either by sea to Great Britain or sea and then overland through France. The rates Terry showed dropped steadily up to the introduction of the Imperial Penny Postage rate in 1898.

Much of the mail between India and Great Britain was military and Terry showed correspondence from campaigns including the 1857-59 mutiny, North-West Frontier campaigns, the Boxer Rebellion in China as well as the two World Wars.

The next section that Terry presented was unexpected: Prisoner of War mail. During the Boer War the British took significant numbers of POW's and 9,000 were sent to thirteen different camps in India. Terry had mail from all camps showing the camp strike and censorship markings.

The first stamp used in India was also the first circular stamp: the Scinde Dawk. This is an extremely rare stamp and Terry showed us an example of the lower value. In 1854, Queen Victoria stamps were issued, and there were mint, used and covers of all of these.

India claims to have the first official airmail flight when 6,500 pieces of mail were flown 6.5 miles at a trade exhibition. Terry also showed covers from a number of pioneering air mail flights between Europe and Australia or the Far East.

The final section was a thematic collection on Mahatma Ghandi. Born in India in 1869, he studied law in London then practised in India before moving to South Africa in 1893. It was there he developed his non-violent action, and he took this back to India in 1914 where he continued to press for independence – which was finally achieved in 1947. Ghandi was assassinated in 1948. Many countries have commemorated Ghandi's life on stamps and Terry had a good selection on display.

Gareth Williams

Nottingham Philatelic Society

Douglas Harvey gave a display of Austria on 3rd August 2018 When Austria began issuing stamps in 1850, Francis Joseph was the Emperor of a large country comprising eight modern countries. Austrian stamps cancelled in Prague, Ljubljana, Trieste and other cities were seen. After the First World War, a much smaller Austria struggled with inflation and joined with Germany in 1938. After the defeat in the Second World War, Austria was initially zoned before achieving its present status. This turbulent history is documented in the philately of the country, which is particularly noted for the quality of the design and printing of the stamps. This was the main theme of Part 2, which highlighted the work of the principal designer, Albert Pilch, and the engraver, Rudolph Toth, with many examples of their teamwork shown in illustrated covers from 1960.

D. Mountford gave a display entitled Falkland Islands: Internal and External Airmail on 7th September. The Falkland Islanders were reluctant to welcome aircraft, despite

the rough nature of the islands' terrain, and it was a medical emergency that changed their opinions. The small aircraft that delivered the first airmails to the island settlements were shown on commemorative stamps. In 1982, the aircraft were destroyed by the Argentine invaders, but after the conflict, air services resumed and are now of prime importance to the Islands. A few Cinderella labels for air freight and parcels were produced, otherwise air mail was not surcharged above regular mail prices. External air mail presented a far graver problem to the Falklands. In 1928, an airmail service was introduced, which involved shipping the mail to Montevideo, followed by air transport to Europe or North America. Zeppelin airships serviced South America in the 1930s. In 1971, an agreement with Argentina eliminated the need to send the mail via Uruguay, but in 1982 war brought further difficulties. Finally, these were resolved after the new Mount Pleasant Military Airfield became available.

Douglas Harvey

Hinckley Philatelic Society

On April 24th, three committee members, Terry Hughes and Richard Ley visited from Kettering. Tony took the first half with his collection of Horizon Labels, which take their name from Royal Mail's Horizon computer system. Tony explained the development of these peel-off adhesive labels from their introduction in 2002, with examples of the labels issued for the various classes of service. It was interesting to see the changes necessary to overcome early problems with the labels due to jamming in the printers issuing them and the use of security die-cuts to combat re-use. Although the labels are issued by postal clerks and are not intended to be handled by the public attempts at forgery still occur.

Richard began the second half with his thematic display of Cricket, which included stamps, covers and postmarks from many countries. Richard's enthusiasm for the sport showed through in his knowledgeable talk.

On May 8th Chris Howe showed his collection of Belgium. He gave a fascinating display of all aspects of Belgium beginning with various entires from the pre-independence era, much of it under Dutch rule. As Belgian resentment of the Dutch grew, this resulted in a proclamation of Belgium independence in November 1830. In



July 1831, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha was proclaimed King. The first Belgian stamps went to sale on 1st July 1849, featuring the King in his military uniform (hence they are known as the epaulette issue). With the King's death in 1865, his son succeeded him as Leopold II and the stamp design was changed to that of a Belgian Lion. There was something to please everyone in the display as Chris presented many examples of registered

mail, charity stamps, forgeries, censored mail, overprints and perfins, booklets,

advertising and metered mail. Different forms of postal transport were represented including postbuses, Paquebot mail, airmails and railway way bills.

Richard Flemming

THE WRONG SUDAN

I am a collector of stamps and postal history of the Belgian Congo. I also have an interest in minerals for a thematic collection. Some years ago, I bought the cover below from a dealer. At first sight, it did not look very special, just a cover from the Congo to Sudan, but then I noticed a White Nile Traveling Post Office cancel, and the fact that the sender was a company dealing in materials that could have a minerals link. So I bought it.

The cover went on a pile of postal history stuff bought, and when I got around to looking at it more in detail, it turned out to be much more interesting than I originally assumed, as the cover counted no less than 12 transit cancels, 10 on the back and 2 at



the front, not all entirely legible, but enough to follow its route. It was franked with a 1 Fr.75 blue definitive stamp issued in 1925-27, and mailed by the SOCOMA Company at Kinshasa to the French Bank for Africa in Bamako.

Upon departure, it was cancelled at the Leopoldville 1 post office, on 5th April 1928. That post office was actually in Kinshasa, but had become the Principal Post Office for the Leopoldville - Kinshasa conurbation in 1924, hence the number 1. Seeing the country name Sudan, the postal clerk handling the cover must have assumed it



should be directed to the Congo's North-Eastern neighbour, the British Sudan. So off it went on the Congo River towards the North East of the Congo, then overland to

arrive at Redjaf just South of Juba on the River Nile, on 14th May 1928. There, it went on a White Nile steamer on the 16th, as per the TPO cancel at the rear. Once it arrived in Khartoum, it was discovered that the cover had gone to the wrong Sudan, since Bamako was in the French Sudan, in what is now Mali. As a result, French Sudan was written twice on the front. The cover now had to cross nearly the entire Sahel from East to West. From Khartoum, it went to El Obeid via a traveling post office, on 25th May 1928, then to Fasher in Darfur, reached on 8 June, and Gemeina near the border with Chad. It travelled on to Abéché in Chad, reached on 6 July, then N'guigmi in Niger, arriving on 19th August. From Niger it crossed into the French Sudan, passing the fabled city of Tombouctou on 16th October, to finally arrive at Bamako on 28th October. That took an astonishing 206 days. Had the letter been sent via Boma and the mail boat to Dakar, and from there by the railway completed in 1904, it might have reached Bamako in a tenth of the time. I hope SOCOMA did not end up in financial difficulties as a result.

Theo Schilderman

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

If you want to see your favourite items shown in the New Midlander then please send me a short article which I can include. Thanks to Theo of Rugby Society for responding to my request in the last issue by sending in the above article. It doesn't take long to write a few words and to send a scan of the item.

Forthcoming National Exhibitions in the United Kingdom

Spring Stampex 2019 13 – 16th February 2019. Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1.

The Royal Philatelic Society London is the oldest surviving philatelic society in the world and will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2019. To mark the occasion it is organising a display of up to 250 frames on the theme of 'King George V'. As Duke of York and then Prince of Wales, King George V was President of the Society from 1896-1910.

As usual Spring Stampex will also be a full National exhibition and all exhibitors from the UK and abroad are welcome to apply. The exhibition rules and details on how to apply are available at <http://www.abps.org.uk/>

The deadline for applications is: 14th December 2018.

Northern National 2019 12 – 13th April 2019. Dewar's Centre, Perth

A full national exhibition will be held in Perth to coincide with the Scottish Congress. This will be the first time that a National has been held in Scotland since 2012, and we expect to have at least 120 frames. Exhibits can be entered in all classes recognised by the ABPS and all exhibitors from the UK and abroad are welcome to apply.

The rules and details on how to apply are available at <http://www.abps.org.uk/>

The deadline for applications is: 28th February 2019.

SOCIETY DIARY

Dec 1 st	Indian Mutiny Standing Displays	Max Smith Members	Midlands GB Postal History
Dec 3 rd	Social Evening and Quiz	Member	Gloucestershire
Dec 4 th	Hungarian Postal History 1920-1930	Mervyn Benford	Banbury
Dec 4 th	Postcards Both Sides	Members	Coventry
Dec 4 th	Chairman's Evening and Raffle for Club Funds	Members	South Birmingham
Dec 4 th	Postcard Evening	Members	Solihull
Dec 4 th	Postal History of the Somme	John Allison	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
Dec 5 th	President's Evening and Christmas Party	Frank Bennet	Hereford
Dec 5 th	Autumn	Members	Leamington
Dec 5 th	Swops Evening	Members	Stroud
Dec 5 th	Christmas Fayre and Letter 'C'	Members	Burton on Trent
Dec 6 th	Competition	Members	Northampton
Dec 7 th	Belgium, Block by Block	Bryan and Minou Button	Nottingham
Dec 8 th	Postcard Evening	Members	Redditch
Dec 10 th	Christmas Social Evening and Quiz	Members	Rugby
Dec 10 th	Members' Other Interests - OO Gauge Railways	Roy Jukes	Telford
Dec 11 th	Christmas Party, Single Sheet and Open Competitions	Members	Hinckley
Dec 11 th	Members' Quiz	Members	Dudley
Dec 11 th	Three Sheets to Tell a Story	Members	Solihull
Dec 11 th	Competitions and Mince Pies	Members	Sutton Coldfield
Dec 12 th	Christmas Quiz and Fuddle	Members	Greater Notts Co-op
Dec 12 th	Unusual Philatelic Items / Christmas Social	Members	Shropshire
Dec 12 th	Celebrations on Stamps / Christmas Social	Members	Stratford
Dec 12 th	Bring and Buy and Letter 'E'	Members	Matlock
Dec 13 th	Christmas Party / Quiz	Members	Wombourne
Dec 13 th	Up to 16 Sheets - "A New Collecting Theme"	Members	Solihull (morning)
Dec 13 th	Annual Cup Presentations and Social Buffet	Members	Coleshill
Dec 13 th	Christmas Meeting	Members	Derby
Dec 17 th	Arms and Legs and Christmas Nibbles	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
Dec 18 th	Dominica	Simon Richards	Banbury
Dec 18 th	Christmas at the Varsity	Members	Coventry
Dec 18 th	Christmas Party and Fun Quiz	Members	Solihull
Dec 19 th	Society Auction, Christmas Buffet and Raffle	Members	Leamington
Dec 20 th	The Committee Entertain		Redditch
Dec 21 st	Christmas Social and Egg Cup Competition	Members	Nottingham
Jan 2 nd	Saints or Santa on Stamps	Members	Stroud
Jan 3 rd	Annual Competitions	Members	Redditch
Jan 3 rd	Tristan Brittan Entertains	Tristan Brittan	Northampton
Jan 4 th	Letters 'B', 'E' and 'R'	Members	Nottingham
Jan 7 th	The Letters "G" and "H"	Members	Rugby
Jan 7 th	A Mixed Bag	Paul Grigg	Gloucestershire

Jan 8 th	Members' Night: Up to 18 Sheets to Tell a Story	Members	Hinckley
Jan 8 th	New Year Social	Members	Banbury
Jan 8 th	First Day and Other Covers	Members	Coventry
Jan 8 th	Members' Competitions	Members	Dudley
Jan 8 th	Members Evening - Any Subject	Members	South Birmingham
Jan 8 th	Netherlands	Philip Longbottom	Leicester
Jan 8 th	Presidential Display	Ray Sheppard	Solihull
Jan 8 th	Golfilately	Jim Gray	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
Jan 9 th	Members Displays of Anything but Stamps	Members	Hereford
Jan 9 th	Bristol	Nick Bridgwater	Leamington
Jan 9 th	Stamps, Postcards and Ephemera	Members	Shropshire (afternoon)
Jan 9 th	Show and Tell	Members	Matlock
Jan 10 th	Up to 6 Sheets – “From Here to There”	Members	Solihull (morning)
Jan 10 th	Visit from Leicester P.S.		Derby
Jan 10 th	Two Kings	IJ Shore	Loughborough
Jan 12 th	Your Favourite Cover and Why!	Members	Midlands GB Postal History
Jan 14 th	Display / Mastermind Quiz	Bob Hemmings	Telford
Jan 15 th	Pioneer Pilots and Planes	Tony Greaves	South Birmingham
Jan 15 th	Two Member Evening		Solihull
Jan 15 th	New Year Resolutions	Members	Sutton Coldfield
Jan 16 th	The Letters "R" and "S"	Members	Stratford
Jan 16 th	Thornbury Society Entertain		Stroud
Jan 17 th	Napoleonic Mail	Richard Farman	Redditch
Jan 18 th	Postal Use of the Penny Black	Nigel Sudbrough	Nottingham
Jan 21 st	Upated Great Britain Postal Stationery	John Gledhill	South Midlands (afternoon)
Jan 21 st	1936 Olympics	Tony Bosworth	Rugby
Jan 22 nd	Members' Night: A Date with History	Members	Hinckley
Jan 22 nd	The Centenary of the Penny Black 1940	Mark Bailey	Banbury
Jan 22 nd	Transport	Members	Coventry
Jan 22 nd	Annual Auction	Members	Dudley
Jan 22 nd	Informal Bring and Buy	Members	South Birmingham
Jan 22 nd	Belgian Congo - Revisited	Gerald Marriner	Solihull
Jan 23 rd	Alphabet Evening - the Letters "E" and "F"	Members	Leamington
Jan 23 rd	Flora and Fauna	Members	Shropshire (afternoon)
Jan 24 th	Competition	Members	Wombourne
Jan 24 th	Foreign Post Offices in the Ottoman Empire	Mike Fulford	Loughborough
Jan 29 th	Postcard Evening, Subjects ‘A’ and ‘B’	Members	South Birmingham
Jan 29 th	Competition / Bring and Buy	Members	Solihull
Jan 29 th	Stratford on Avon Postal History	Bryan Jones	Sutton Coldfield
Jan 30 th	The Confederate States of America	John Walker	Stratford
Feb 1 st	First to Third Reich	David Shipstone	Nottingham